

**SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

**SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this Act:

(1) **REFUGE.**—The term "Refuge" means the Red River National Wildlife Refuge established under section 3.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to exclude extraneous material therein on H.R. 4318, as amended.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4318 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY). It will establish the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana.

The Red River Valley is part of a historic migratory corridor that is used by over 350 different species of birds. These species include migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and neotropical migratory songbirds.

It is part of the Mid-Continent Flyway region that stretches as far north as the Arctic Circle and as far south as Tierra del Fuego, South America.

Under the terms of the bill, the Secretary of Interior is provided with the authority to acquire up to 50,000 acres of land, water and other interests for inclusion in the refuge.

I fully expect that all private land acquired by the Red River Refuge will be purchased from willing sellers.

Mr. Speaker, I compliment the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) for his tireless leadership on behalf of this legislation. The gentleman has worked extremely closely with local, State, and Federal officials to make the Red River National Wildlife Refuge a reality. I obviously urge an aye vote on 4318.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment and thank my good friend from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for his management of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the cooperation and progress that has been

made to improve the provisions of H.R. 4318 since it was ordered reported favorably by the Committee on Resources in July of this year.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the final maps depicting the proposed acquisition boundaries for this new refuge have been agreed to by the bill's sponsor, my good friend, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY), and by the Fish and Wildlife Service. I support these boundaries; and with this last remaining issue resolved, I am comfortable with moving this bill forward with passage today.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, will help restore and protect in perpetuity, valuable wetlands and wildlife habitats along the Red River in northern Louisiana. This bill is supported by the administration and has strong bipartisan support on both sides of the aisle on the Committee on Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H.R. 4318, the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act. This measure, which I introduced, establishes the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Caddo, Bossier, Red River, Natchitoches, and DeSoto Parishes in the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana.

At present, there are 20 national wildlife refuges in the State of Louisiana which host over 1.4 million visitors annually. However, not a single national wildlife refuge exists in Northwest Louisiana to meet a demonstrated environmental need in the Red River Alluvial Valley.

The Red River Alluvial Valley is an internationally significant environmental resource that has been neglected and requires active restoration and management to protect and enhance the value of the region as habitat for fish and wildlife.

The Red River Valley is part of a major continental migration corridor for migratory birds funneling through North America from as far north as the Arctic Circle to as far south as Tierra del Fuego in South America. This valley is of critical environmental importance to over 350 species of birds (including migratory and resident waterfowl, shore birds, and neotropical migratory birds), aquatic life, and a wide array of other species associated with river basin ecosystems.

However, since the 1820s, the Red River Valley has been almost totally cleared of its forest cover, primarily due to agricultural production. The recent completion of the Red River Waterway project in Louisiana and the land-use changes away from agricultural production in the area have enhanced opportunities for environmental restoration and management of fish and wildlife in the Red River Valley.

H.R. 4318 authorizes the acquisition of up to 50,000 acres of land, waters, or interests therein in Caddo, Bossier, Red River, DeSoto, and Natchitoches Parishes for inclusion in the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is envisioned to take the form of several large tracts of refuge lands comprising several thousand acres apiece, managed as a system to restore and preserve fish and wildlife habitat.

The Red River National Wildlife Refuge, authorized in this Act, represents the federal

share of a unique federal, state, local and private partnership being proposed by local conservationists, including Paul and Skipper Dickson and other members of the Friends of the Red River Refuges, to restore and manage approximately ten percent of the 800,000-acre Red River Alluvial Valley in Louisiana. Funding for land acquisition would come from the Migratory Bird Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

H.R. 4318 calls for significant local public involvement in the delineation of refuge boundaries and the formulation of a refuge management plan. The bill also encourages public use of refuge lands and environmental outreach programs and facilities, including the authorization of wildlife interpretation and education center associated with the refuge.

I would like to thank House Resources Committee Chairman DON YOUNG, Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee Chairman JIM SAXTON, and the other members of the Resources Committee for their support for this proposal. I urge members of the House to vote in favor of this legislation so we may undertake this important conservation and restoration project as soon as possible.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4318, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill H.R. 4318, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### CORINTH BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1117) to establish the Corinth Unit of Shiloh National Military Park, in the vicinity of the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1117

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Corinth Battlefield Preservation Act of 1999".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) in 1996, Congress authorized the establishment and construction of a center—

(A) to facilitate the interpretation of the Siege and Battle of Corinth and other Civil War actions in the area in and around the city of Corinth, Mississippi; and

(B) to enhance public understanding of the significance of the Corinth campaign and the Civil War relative to the western theater of operations, in cooperation with—

(i) State or local governmental entities;

(ii) private organizations; and

(iii) individuals;

(2) the Corinth Battlefield was ranked as a priority 1 battlefield having critical need for